



The Gipper

Marine Corps League
President Ronald Reagan Detachment 597
Semper Fidelis

Richard Jennings, Commandant
mcl597commandant@gmail.com
Richard Farra, Managing Editor
richfarra@gmail.com



FEBRUARY 2019



COMMANDANT
Richard Jennings

MCL597Commandant@gmail.com
805-328-9817



Marines, Corpsmen and Associate Members:

First, I want to thank you all very much for giving me the opportunity to be your Commandant for another year - it's a job I truly enjoy and look forward to everyday. Some of my primary goals include continuing to make our Detachment known for helping Veterans, regardless of branch of service, and to expand our community outreach and recognition, among other things. Your Board of Directors is here to serve the Detachment and we need your input in order to do a more effective job.

There is only one change on the Board this coming year, Jim Wagner will be the new Jr. Vice Commandant in place of Ken "Doc" Honaker. Doc decided not to run for Jr. Vice Commandant for another term because of personal reasons and opened the opportunity for a new Board member. To help with the transition, Doc will continue to orchestrate the logistics for the Annual Birthday Ball and become the Director of Events for the Detachment – a newly created position.

Installation of our elected officers and appointed members to the Board, will be on March 7, 2019 at the Simi Valley Elks Lodge. Presiding over the installation will be Ray Valenzuela the Commandant of the Department of California. Please plan on attending to show your support for your new Board of Directors and to meet Ray.

It is with sadness that I announce, and after a meeting with the Detachments Board of Directors, it has been decided to cancel our golf tournament. After two years of not securing a "Title Sponsor," we have decided to try other avenues to raise money for the Detachment.



I would like to thank everyone who were on both the tournament and volunteer committees. Also all the volunteers who came out for both tournaments and worked tirelessly in 12 hour shifts to help make the events enjoyable.

My personal thanks go to my event co-chairmen, Ben Pfister and John Coley, for their dedication in making both tournaments possible - without them, it would have been impossible to have these tournaments. And, I want to thank the Detachment members for their support.



Other news, a small group from our Detachment went to the Marine West Expo at Camp Pendleton on Friday, February 8, and it was an experience. In addition to myself, attending were Ben Pfister, Harry Hodges, Rudy Cardero, Fausto Galvan, and Tim Stratton. There were booths everywhere and many didn't catch our attention, but the ones that did focused on the protection of our way of life that displayed modern day weapons and accessories.

While at the Expo, I had the pleasure of meeting two representatives from the Semper Fi Fund. The Semper Fi Fund assists in caring for many Marine Veterans and their families and have locations at Camp Pendleton on the west coast and Quantico on the east coast. For more information please visit their web site at www.SemperFiFund.org.



(Pictured are Commandant Dick Jennings with Wendy Lethin, Secretary to the Board of Directors from the Semper Fi Fund at the Marine West Expo.)

As well as, meeting with Garrett Law, Sales Manager and Loan Originator of **Low VA Rates** (VA Mortgage Experts). Check out their webpage at www.LowVARates.com. For some, it may be worth your while.

On another note, Our Color Guard Detail presented colors at the Vet Center in Chatsworth on February 6, in celebration of a 93 year old WWII Veteran, and two Korean War Veterans who were in their 80's. Quite an experience. Color Guard members included Ramon Arevelo, Dave Opfer, Larry Fischer, Fausto Galvan, and me. Unfortunately, there were no pictures taken at the event.





February 8 at the Elks Lodge #2492, the Color Guard presented Colors for the Annual 2019 Awards Dinner celebrating the First Responders of Ventura County.

(Pictured L/R: Ramon Arevelo, Dave Opfer, John Miller, John Coley, Jack Parfitt and his lovely wife Toni, and Ben Pfister.)



Jr. Vice Commandant Ken "Doc" Honaker presenting a check from the Detachment to Army Veteran Blake Steele and his wife Janet. The Steele's lost everything in the recent fires that ravaged Agoura Hills last year.



Semper Fi,
Dick Jennings
Commandant



SR. VICE COMMANDANT

Harry Hodges

Hodges1951@gmail.com

805-515-1401, Mobile



Marines and Associate members,

I would like to thank the members of Detachment 597 for allowing me to be your Sr Vice Commandant for another year. I will do my best to fulfill the duties of this office to the best of my abilities, and to continue to work together in building and growing our Detachment.

Ships Store is doing great, we now have a full line satin jackets, \$135.00 each, fully embroidered; covers are \$30.00; cover EGA ornaments (regular members) are \$6.00 each and cover ornaments (associates) are \$7.00 each; and patches with MCL logos for regular and associate members are \$5.00 each. We also have other items for sale which are on display during our monthly general meetings.

Semper Fi,
Harry Hodges
Senior Vice & Ships Store Rep



**JR. VICE COMMANDANT
Ken 'Doc' Honaker**

JrviceMCL597@gmail.com

805-416-4063, Mobile



Marines, Corpsmen and Associates:

After serving as your Jr. Vice Commandant for several years, I have decided to step down for personal reasons. Although I will be taking a less active role within the Detachment, I will be taking the newly created position as Events chairman.

Your new Jr. Vice is Marine Jim Wagner who is a good and honorable man and great member of the detachment. Jim has stepped up to assist the leadership of the 597 and I can assure you he will do a fantastic job. It has been an honor and a pleasure to fill this role. I will be available to assist Jim in any way I can.

Several of us went to the Marine West Expo at Camp Pendleton this past Friday. As usual there were numerous booths with the latest and greatest gear to be used by and to support our Marines in their day-to-day operations, as well as in the combat theatre. Items large and small, from the latest tracked vehicle to special medical implements, were on display with reps to present their function and usability. I had contacted our Birthday Ball guest of honor, Sgt Maj Dee Cook USMC (ret), to see if she would be available while we were on base, we could check in for a sit rep. Unfortunately, her current status is SIQ and was unavailable as she recently had a knee replacement. She asked if anyone had noted a slight limp at the ball. She is on the mend and thanked us for thinking of her.

On a separate note, the next community activity for the 597 Big Red canopy will be the Simi Valley Street Fair. This annual event is on 4 May 2019 in the Simi Town Center, what most of us know as the Simi Mall. More info at the March and/or April MCL meeting.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Jr Vice Commandant.

Semper Fi
Ken "Doc" Honaker
Jr. Vice Commandant



JR. PAST COMMANDANT

Jerry R. German

jrgerman@sbcglobal.net

818-324-2338, Mobile



MCL Detachment # 597 Membership's Customer Survey Feedback on the 2018 Marine Corps Birthday Ball Celebration

SITUATION

Marine Corps League Detachment #597 conducts a Birthday Ball Celebration annually in November. The 2018 Ball was held at the Grande Vista Hotel in Simi Valley on 17Nov2018. The celebration was scheduled from approximately 5:00PM to 10:00PM. Despite a lot of pre-ball publicity and enthusiastic support for the event, only about 100 Members, Associates and Guests attended - the lowest participation in years.

MISSION

How did you like last year's Marine Corps Ball celebration at the Grande Vista Hotel on 17Nov2018? Did you attend? Why did you attend? Not attend? Were you previously committed and could not attend? Do you not care for big crowds? Was the celebration too expensive? Are you just not interested? Your Marine Corps League Detachment Board of Trustees decided to conduct a Customer Survey to try to determine why attendance is declining and how to increase participation. This article attempts to summarize the feedback received in that Customer Survey.

EXECUTION

A Customer Survey form was created and presented to the membership at the 06Dec2018 General Membership Meeting held at the Elk's Lodge. The reason and purpose of the survey was explained to the Membership and they were all asked to complete the anonymous survey and drop the completed survey in a container provided before they left the meeting. Thirty responses were received, covering 61 of the attendees at the previous month's Birthday Ball - approximately 2/3 of the attendees.

ADMINISTRATIVE

The survey asked for membership feedback on: **Location** selected for the Ball, **Date** selected for the Ball, **Cost** of the Ball, **Food & Drinks** served at the Ball, **Service** provided by the Hotel Staff, the **Hotel's Facilities**, **Parking and Atmosphere** and the **Program** conducted by the members and Associates of the Detachment.

COMMAND & CONTROL

Membership feedback received on the survey included:

- **LOCATION**- the majority of respondents favored the Grande Vista. A few would favor an upscale location (Reagan Library was mentioned) but recognize that upscale means too expensive.
- **DATE**- the majority of respondents favored the 3rd Saturday of November.
- **COST**- the majority of respondents said price was on the high side but was fine.
- **FOOD & DRINKS**-the majority of he respondents said the food quality was good. Some said preparation and presentation needed improvement (over cooked steak, food not hot enough, etc.). The majority said drink prices were too high, some said way too high.



- **SERVICE & FACILITIES**-the majority said they were well pleased with the hotel facilities and staff, the bathrooms were well stocked and clean (although a few said they needed attention late in the evening), most were satisfied with the room layout but a few were not happy with the dance floor, layout and size.
- **PROGRAM**-the majority of the comments received were on the program itself. A summary of the comments follows:
 - **Background Music**-not needed, too loud, interferes with table conversations
 - **MC's Introduction**-excellent, well done
 - **Motivational Videos**-not understood by audience; eliminate
 - **CMC's Birthday Message**-great
 - **Invocation**-too long
 - **POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony**-excellent but needs to be shortened if possible
 - **Colors/Cake Cutting**-excellent
 - **Commandant's Formal Welcome**-excellent
 - **Introduction of Guest of Honor**-excellent
 - **Guest of Honor Comments**-excellent, marvelous
 - **Award Ceremony**-very good but too long; recommend saving some awards for membership meeting
 - **Commandant's Closing Remarks**-OK
 - **Dancing**-better at Wood Ranch, floor layout not ideal, prefer different music
 - **Final Thoughts**-program excellent but must shorten "speeches" and include "Toasts"

Author's note: Our Detachment Board of Trustees is using your feedback to investigate program changes and flow of our Birthday Ball celebrations – please keep your thoughts and comments coming.



JUDGE ADVOCATE

John Miller

kathiemill@aol.com

(805) 581-5462



REMEMBER YOUR PERSONAL HISTORY



General Robert Castellvi and Judge Advocate

Several months ago, I was invited to a change of command ceremony at 62 Area, at Camp San Mateo, Camp Pendleton. The occasion was the passing of the torch from one Battalion Commander to another. In this case it was on January 25, 2019 and it was for the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines (2/4). 2/4 was formed prior to World War I in 1914. It also served in World War II during the battles of Guam and Okinawa. 2/4 is most famous for its actions in Viet Nam especially during the major battles of Con Thien and Dai Do. The Battalion also served during Operation Desert Storm in Ramadi and later in Afghanistan. A storied battle history and one every Marine should be proud of. I went to the change of command with my Marine Corps boot camp buddies from Platoon 144, that started on June 25, 1963. Victor Banuelos was the "House Mouse" and Sgt. Ray Del Rio was our DI. We were the last platoon for Sgt. Del Rio and he went from the drill field to Mike 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines (M/3/1) Victor also went to M/3/1, and I went to Lima 3/1. That was in October 1963 and the Battalion was stationed at San Mateo, so returning there for the change of command brought back many memories.



Pass in review of 2nd Battalion 4th Marines 1-25-2019

The Commanding General of 1st MarDiv, Major General, Robert Castellvi. was present along with the Commanding Officer of the 5th Marines, Colonel George Schieffer. The ceremony was just as I remembered and the pass in review was very impressive and reminded me of the days on that same field back in 1964. Lt. Colonel Warren Cook Jr. turned 2/4 over to Lt. Colonel Patrick B. Byrne. As Viet Nam Veterans, we were mentioned in the opening statement of the outgoing commander and everyone in the reviewing stands gave us a proud OO RAH. However, it was after the ceremony that we were really given a very special welcome home. While we were talking to the Colonel from 5th Marines, a young Marine Captain approached us in his crisp modified winter green uniform. I noticed that he had a purple heart and several other decorations. I also noticed that he was Vietnamese.

This Captain grabbed my hand and said in a very strong voice, “ I want to thank you. (Viet Nam Veterans) Because of you I got to come to America. My mother fled the Communists after the fall of Saigon and we came to Camp Pendleton for a few months. We were relocated to New Orleans.” I couldn’t help but notice that this Captain kept saying “You all” after every other word” I asked where he picked up the “You All” and he said I was raised in Savannah, Sir.



So here in front of me, was the American Dream as I see it. A Vietnamese mother brings her family to America and settles into our customs and traditions. Her son joins the United States Marine Corps to repay the United States for his freedom. I have been home from Viet Nam for over 52 years and this was by far the most touching and



sincere “WELCOME HOME” I have ever received. This Captain’s name is David Pham, he is the Commanding Officer of H&S Company, 2nd Bn, 4th Marines. From one generation of War Fighter to another. It was a great day to be a US Marine at Camp San Mateo. The war fighting name of 2nd Bn, 4th Marines is THE MAGNIFICENT BASTARDS. Only in the US Marine Corps can someone be called a Bastard and it serves as a compliment and badge of Honor.

Semper Fidelis,
John E Miller
Judge Advocate



John Coley
w4simi@yahoo.com



From the Desk of the Adjutant

Marines, Corpsman and Associate Members,

Congratulations to all of the newly elected Officers of Detachment 597 of the Marine Corps League for the March fiscal year 2019 – 2020. The following members were elected by voting members during the February general meeting: Commandant – Richard “Dick” Jennings; Sr. Vice Commandant - Harry Hodges; Jr. Vice Commandant - Jim Wagner; and Judge Advocate - John Miller. They will be installed at the March 7 meeting by special guest Ray Valenzuela, Commandant of the Dept. of California.

Welcome to our two newest regular members, Marines Norm Robichau and Michael Flood who were sworn in at the February Meeting. This brings our total from April 2018 to February 2019 to 12 new regular and 7 new associate members. Keep up the good work in bringing in new folks to join our Detachment. Let us try to get to 25 new members by this coming April’s General Meeting.

As always, our Color Guard remains very busy. They performed at 11 events during January and have 5 events already booked for February. They can use some additional volunteers to help in the growing number of events scheduled in the coming months and throughout the year. Occasionally, there will be multiple functions booked at the same time, and there may not be enough Honor Guard members available to do two Military Honor burials simultaneously. If you would like to volunteer contact Ruy “Top” Peña @ 818-912-9863.

In the past year, we have finally taken a step to move into the present era. In the past, our meeting minutes have been printed and distributed at our monthly meetings, which ended up being a waste of paper and



money. We will be emailing the minutes to members whereby saving money and informing our members of our Detachment's activities attending the meetings or not.

In the coming year we will require help in the nominations for Detachment Awards to be given to the deserving members and associates. Last year only four persons turned in the nomination form that was put on tables at the September, October and November meetings. In this coming year, I hope to put that form into an email to hopefully increase the response rate and take advantage of the monetary savings.

Semper Fidelis,
John Coley
Adjutant



THE DOG ROBBER HOWLS

Pound 325, Ventura County Devil Dogs
California Pack 2012 Pound of the Year

DD Ben Pfister
Pound Keeper

benpdet597@gmail.com

818-208-1095



Woof Woof Devil Dogs, Marines and Associates.

Well, several of us Devil Dogs went to Camp Pendleton on the 8th for Marine West and a Growl, but because of a lack of or miscommunication there wasn't a Growl - we had a good time anyway. We saw some old friends, made some new ones, and did a little shopping.

Our next Growl will be the 12th of March at the VFW Post 2323 in Granada Hills.

Detachment 1347 is hosting the Dept of California's Spring Conference March 15th and 16th at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Commerce CA, and there is a Growl on the 15th at 1800 at the 9th floor lounge.

On Wednesday 13 February, we visited the Veterans at the Chatsworth Brookdale Senior Living facility. This was our second visit, our first was to introduce ourselves to each other, this visit was one where we invited a karaoke singer, Daniel Piperno, to entertain the attendees. We had a good turnout from the 597, David Opfer, Dick Jennings, Doc Honaker, Brad Cantley, Larry Fischer, Bob Obrymski, Joe Trotman, Norman Robichau, and I enjoyed the interaction. We plan on making this type of visit a monthly event with Brookdale.





CHAPLAIN Bradley Cantley

bradleycantley@gmail.com

Cell: 805-813-3571



The Chaplain's Corner

Fellow Marines, veterans and friends:

A short and simple prayer to those in need: **"Supreme Commandant (Father God), I pray for healing for all on this list. Thank you Jesus, Amen."** Newly added will be highlighted in sky blue, but only the first time when I send an update. *If you have recovered nicely please let me know if you wish to be removed, or need an update on your condition. Also if I missed anyone please let me know.*

Below are those brave men and women who need our prayers:

Ericka Silva—Ericka is still in our prayers, and I currently don't have a recent update. If someone knows more please let me know.

Thomas Hernandez—Tom still needs prayer and we all hope to see him at the meetings.

Blanca Hernandez – Has had 3 strokes and needs care 24/7. Tom Hernandez is taking care of her. So let us pray for her to get healed and for Tom to have the strength to help.

Jim Lieberknecht – I believe things are slow but progressing nicely, if someone has an update please let me know. We will keep him and his wife in our prayers.

Mike Maxwell – We still need to pray for Mike (prostate cancer) for the treatments to work better for him.

Bill Trammell – Bill as well has prostate cancer, and we pray that his treatments will go well for him.

Buggs Ansell - On oxygen 24/7

Sue Honaker – Sue will be on monthly infusions for at least the next six months. Amyloidosis is never considered cured, just managed in remission. She will be in our prayers still, and we pray she gets better soon.

Brad Cantley—I am not generally one to ask for much anything. I was supposed to go into surgery, but decided not to proceed with it. Also, various joints (elbows and shoulders mainly) have been hurting with a burning feeling. So prayers are good right about now. Thanks.

RED (Remember Everyone Deployed) – Let us keep those Marines and other service members in our prayers as they might be in harm's way, or just away for training. "We ask our Supreme Commandant to watch over them and keep them safe. Bring them back home as soon as You are able too. Amen"

May our Lord and Savior keep watch over us, and to continue to watch over us. May He protect us, keep us healthy, and to keep us safe.

God bless
Semper Fi
Chaplain Brad



Honduras Part 1

Arriving at my first duty station Camp Pendleton was a shocker, especially after spending all my training at Camp Lejeune for infantry school. Well after about two months with the HQ CO TOW PLT 5th Marines, we were called up to support 2/5 in Operation Golden Pheasant. We were there to support other US troops, and the Hondurian Army with repelling Sandinistas (Contra) rebels. I couldn't remember the exact times or the operation designation. So, WIKI is my friend in that regards and it helps with the memory process.

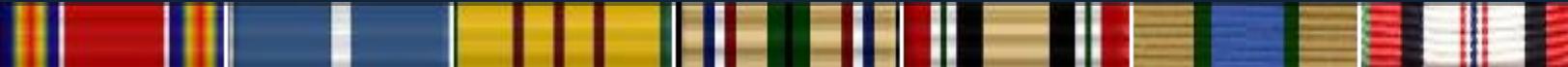
My section consisted of two boots (me and Ramirez) and some crusty short timers. The boots got issued a large ALICE pack and we were like cool until they told us we are the radiomen. I am thinking that seriously sucks, because I have seen enough war movies with my mother and grandfather to know that the radioman is taken out first.

We flew out of Edwards Air Force base on a C-130 to head down to Honduras. Needless to say, it was my second time on one of those birds, but it was far longer than the one I had as AFJROTC cadet. No earplugs and all you heard was that damn propeller sound—brrrrrbrrrrrr all the way down to Pamerola AB in Honduras which is held by a coalition of US and Honduras troops. God forbid on the way down you had to use the head, because you literally climb over everyone to get to it which was in the front of the plane. That wasn't going to happen to this PFC at the time, and I sat there squeezing tightly my butt cheeks.

As the plane comes in for a landing all I can think of is getting to the nearest head. The plane comes to a halt and opened the back ramp for us to file out. I got hit with such heat and humidity that I wasn't sure which I hated most. Filing out I noticed some port-a-potties off to the right, and told my section leader I had to go use that head. He said you better hurry up because they are going to form up in 15 minutes, and I learned new term that day. He said to be sure to cut it short and wipe it deep. Hadn't a clue what he meant until I started. Because it seemed I had literally just arrived before they were telling me to form up. Damn!!! And a whole slew of bad words came out. Lol

Part 2 next Gipper

God Bless and Semper Fi,
Chaplain Brad



COLOR GUARD COMMANDER

Ruy Peña

colorguard597@gmail.com

818-912-9863, Mobile



NEVER LETTING A VETERAN DOWN

Marines, Corpsmen and Associates,

As your Color Guard Commander, I will be striving to continue to improve and to uphold our sacred vow to be able to provide Veterans with a proper military send-off. No Veteran should leave this earth without the recognition for their service to our great nation. We also hold the responsibility to be the representatives of our Detachment and the Marine Corps League. I want to personally thank every color guard volunteer who takes time off their personal schedule to fulfill our mission and act professionally while providing our services.

Semper Fi

Ruy Peña

Color Guard Commander





HISTORIAN

John Miller

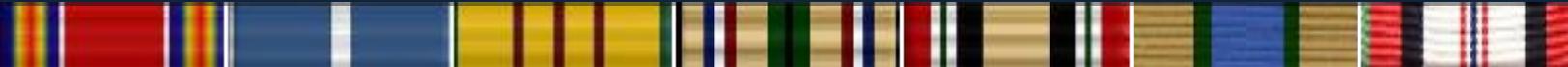
kathiemill@aol.com

(805) 581-5462



IMPORTANT DATES IN FEBRUARY

- 2-1- 2003 Shuttle Columbia breaks up over Texas, 16 minutes before scheduled landing. All aboard were killed.
- 2-1- 1878 First woman, Hattie Caraway from Arkansas, served in US Senate
- 2-2- 1848 US war with Mexico ended. The US paid Mexico \$15,000,000 for Ca,Nv,Ut,NM,Az and parts of Texas and Colorado.
- 2-3 1913 16th Amendment allows Congress to collect income tax.
- 2-3- 1943 Four US Chaplains give up their life vests to other men aboard a sinking ship. All 4 perish when the ship sinks.
- 2-3- 1894 Artist Norman Rockwell born
- 2-4- 1861 Apache war lasting 25 years begins.
- 2-6- 1943 20th Amendment sets January 20th as Presidential Inaugural Day
- 2-6- 1895 Babe Ruth born
- 2-6- 1911 President Ronald Reagan born
- 2-8- 1820 General William T. Sherman born
- 2-9- 1943 US captures Guadalcanal after a 6 month battle with loss of 6,000 Japanese and 2,000 US troops.
- 2-9- 1773 President William Harrison born
- 2-10-1942 First Medal of Honor of World War II, earned by 2nd Lt. Alexander Nininger, US Army, for actions on Bataan, Philippines Islands.
- 2-11-1847 Thomas Edison Born
- 2-12-1809 President Abraham Lincoln born. US Army Veteran, led the Union during Civil War.
- 2-14-1929 Massacre of 7 rivals by Al Capone in Chicago.
- 2-15-1898 USS Maine blows up in Havana Cuba with 210 Americans killed which results in the US declaring war on Spain.
- 2-15-1989 USSR pulls out of Afghanistan after 15,000 Russian troops killed
- 2-17-1865 Fort Sumter returned to Union hands
- 2-17-1829 Chief Geronimo dies at Ft. Sill, Ok.
- 2-19-1941 President Roosevelt signs executive order that results in 110,000 Japanese-Americans relocated in camps across the US.
- 2-20-1943 US troops defeated in first major action in World War II at Kasserine Pass in N. Africa. Over 1,000 US Troops killed in the battle.
- 2-20-1962 Marine John Glenn launched into orbit
- 2-22-1732 President George Washington born
- 2-23-1942 Japanese submarine shells Santa Barbara during World War II



2-23-1945 US Marines raise flag over Iwo Jima, 4 days after landing on the island.



- 2-24-1885 Admiral Chester Nimitz born
- 2-27-1991 100 hour war during Operation Desert Storm
- 2-28-1994 First NATO combat as US jets shoot down 4 Bosnian Serb jet fighters.

Our history. Take pride in it.

Semper Fidelis
John E Miller



GLEN GRISWOLD SGT. USMC 1965-1969



Sharing My Grandfather's WWII Story

In the attached picture you will see my grandfather's WWI dog tags and mine from 1965. Some interesting history on my Grandfather, George's time in the US Army.



First, about the Dog Tags. This is exactly how they were when he was discharged. In those days, the Tags were made of aluminum and hand stamped. The two Tags were tied to a boot lace and worn around the neck. The tags read: G. R. SHAW 1134908 SGT. M. T. C.

His information: George R. Shaw, Ser. # 1134908, Rank Sergeant, Motor Transport Corps. We all know how brutal WWI was. Here is another side to the events in France when George was there.

As a young Private, while his ship was in transit to France, George fully expected to be thrown into the meat grinder that so many of our solders experienced. However, before he landed, the War ended. So now, here he is, landing in France and it's one big party. As he walks down the gang plank and down the pier, there is an early version of an Army truck with the hood up and sever solders looking at the engine. Horses were used as the primary freight halers at that time. Not many folks new anything about vehicles and engines.

George, being a farm boy from Ohio had worked on tractors and trucks. He stopped and asked if he could be of any help. The Sergeant in charge said yes if there was anything he could do. I never new what he did but I understood that he got the truck running in short order.



The Sergeant told George to stay where he was and he would be right back. Shortly the Sergeant returned with a Captain who asked him what unit he was with. George told him and the Captain's reply was, " You are now in the Motor Transport Corps. You report to the Sergeant here."

This is just the beginning of George's good luck. Not much time had passed and a Major General called down to the Sergeant of the MTC requesting a new driver as his was rotating back to the States. The Sergeant said that he had a sharp young Private he would send over.

George impressed the General with his driving and the General requested that he be his permanent driver. George thought he had it made as he usually was on duty during the day and had the weekends off. At that time, George said almost everyone was drunk as stashes of good wine and Champaign had been hidden away in caves. He said that he and his buddies were usually drunk all weekend and sometimes spent the whole time in these caves.

The General said one morning when he was picking him up, "I have good news and bad news George." As a General, I cannot have a Private as my driver. You are now a Sergeant.

So here within one year of boot camp, George is a Sergeant and a General's driver. He told me that the most fun was that he had use of the General's car on weekends. He and his buddies would drive around the country side with the General's car, that of course had the two-star flags on the front fenders, and were saluted by everyone as they drove by.

That is how my Grandfather spent his time in the US Army during and at the end of WWI.

Semper Fi
Glen Griswold



MANAGING EDITOR

RICHARD FARRA

richfarra@gmail.com

818-470-3258 Mobile

The Test

This Detachment needs its members to be directly involved with its growth and survival. I encourage members to become more active and ask what you can do to help.

Richard Farra
Managing Editor

Things can't be that good, your Commandant wants to hear from you so please write him a "DEAR COMMANDANT" letter

We need your ideas to make our detachment better. If you have ideas and/or gripes about our general meetings, events or whatsoever. Your Commandant wants to hear about them.

Like a shark, we must keep moving forward or we will die. We need your input to move forward and grow. For example, Dick Jennings suggested and executed on his idea for a Speakers' Bureau to share a Veteran's view of war to high school students. His idea is a positive community outreach idea and has had great reviews and demand for more presentations.

We want our members to share their thoughts, concerns and compliments to the Commandant. If there is something not done to one's expectations, please submit your ideas on how to resolve these issues and concerns. All correspondence will be kept confidential unless specified otherwise. Email me your ideas and thoughts to me, Richard Farra, Editor, at richfarra@gmail.com and I will forward them to the Commandant anonymously for his feedback and include them in the Gipper.



PAYMASTER'S CORNER

ANDY DOBRZYNSKI

andydobrzynski@gmail.com

805-428-5902



Greetings to all,

Congratulations to all newly elected officers of the detachment. Kudo's to all detachment members who attended The Simi Valley's Elks lodge "FIRST RESPONDERS 2019 AWARDS DINNER." Our exposure is necessary in our community.

The following local services were honored: Simi Valley Police Department, Ventura County Fire Department, California Highway Patrol, Ventura County Sheriff's Office, and American Medical Response. Welcome to our 2 new members, Norman Edward Robichau and Michel Flood.

Semper Fi!

Your Paymaster,

Andy Dobrzynski



NEW MEMBERS

Commandant issues the Oath of Membership to our two new members at our February 7th General Meeting. The two new members are Norm Robichau and Flood.





VERY HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAYS



Susan Emslie	3	James. M. Godsy	11
Zaida Adorno	4	Doug Walker*	12
Juvencio Louis Gallegos	4	Robert A. Kosloff*	19
Randy R. Ringen	6	Edward J. Lantos	23
Gerald W. Anderson*	7	Henry L. Noorda*	24
Harry L. Hodges, Jr.*	7	Jo Bamforth	25
Kenneth D. Honaker*	8		

* - Life Member



ATTENTION ON DECK

EMAIL ADDRESSES: If you did NOT receive this newsletter via email, it means your email isn't on the detachment roster. Please email Matt Valenzuela with your email address to: mattval@aol.com.

DD214 REPLACEMENT AND MILITARY MEDALS & AWARDS: Are you in need of a replacement DD214? Are you missing awards or medals and would like to get your records updated? Would you like to get the military records of a deceased next of kin? Please visit www.archives.gov/veterans/ to fill out the eVetRecs online system or download the SF180 form.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS AND NEW MEMBERS: Members more than 6 months past due will no longer receive the newsletter and will be removed from the roster prior to publication. MCL National HQ requires a new application if a member is more than 12 months past due. To bring your dues up to date, contact the Paymaster. Renewal dues are \$40 per year, and due in September. New member dues are \$45. All new applicants for regular membership must be prepared to show proof of Honorable military service with a DD214.

MCL Det. #597 GENERAL MEETINGS

1st Thursday of each month

Simi Valley Elks Lodge #2492

1561 Kuehner Drive

Simi Valley, CA 93065

Meet and Greet 1800

Dinner 1800-1859

Meeting 1900

BOARD MEETINGS

3rd Wednesday of each month from 1600-1800

US Bank Building

1445 East Los Angeles Avenue, Room 302

Simi Valley, CA 93065